

# Jairam addresses meet of State forest officers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Union Minister of State for Forest and Environment Jairam Ramesh, who was on a tour of the State capital, addressed a meeting of forest officers here on Wednesday evening. Forest Minister Sartaj Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Forests MK Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ramesh K Dave and Secretary to the Chief Minister and Mineral Resources and officers of the Forest Department were present at the meeting.

The Forest Department made a presentation on the application of information technology in the activities of the department before the Union Minister. He was informed that how information technology was being used for taking decision, to bring about transparency, quick citizen service and for improving administrative efficiency. Through the presentation, detailed information was provided about Fire Alert Messaging System, Wildlife Management System, Forest Survey System, and Geographical Information System etc.

Jairam Ramesh was informed that the department was making available services in the fields of Web Application



Advise, Transfer of Digital Map Techniques etc to states such as Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh.

Jairam Ramesh lauded the efforts in the field of information and telecommunication technology by the forest department. He said that cooperation of the Madhya Pradesh Government and forest department will be sought by the Central Government for preparing such software for other states too.

The Union Minister of State suggested at the meeting

that a national level workshop on management and monitoring of Campa should be organised at Bhopal. Representative of the honourable Supreme Court should also be invited to the workshop, he said.

Sartaj Singh urged the Union Minister to provide sufficient funds to the State Forest Department for maintenance of forests and wild life. Additional Chief Secretary Forests MK Rai requested to release the Campa fund in time. Jairam Ramesh informed that 10 per cent of the amount deposited in the Campa Fund this year will be made available to Madhya Pradesh.